

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12 and substitute therefor the following new claims:

13. (new) A system for identifying and authenticating operating substances for an item of equipment,

- the operating substances or their storage containers being provided with
 - machine-readable product information, and
 - authenticating information that can be detected by a human eye and is distinctive to a human viewer,
- the item of equipment being provided with a reading device adapted to read

the machine-readable information, and
the authenticating information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to a human viewer,

- the item of equipment including an evaluating device for the product information and for the authenticating information and comparing read authenticating information with a stored authorized information of origin,
 - the evaluating device enabling the item of equipment in such a way that if the read authenticating information coincides with the stored authorized information an enabling signal is generated permitting operation of the item of equipment, and
 - if the read authenticating information does not coincide with the stored authorized information operation of the item of equipment is prevented.

14. (new) A system according to claim 13, wherein

- the operating substances or their storage containers include a data carrier portion where the authenticating information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to a human viewer is stored, and wherein
- the evaluating device comprises
 - a comparison device for comparing the read authenticating information with the authorized information of origin stored in a memory, and

an enabling controller for at least one functional component of the item of equipment.

15. (new) A system according to claim 14, wherein the data carrier portion has a first region where only machine-readable information is stored, and a second region where the authenticating information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to the human viewer is stored.

16. (new) A system according to claim 14, including at least one reference marking at the data carrier portion for orienting the reading device.

17. (new) A system according to claim 15, wherein

- the information stored at the first region of the data carrier portion is formed by a machine-readable code, and
- wherein the information stored at the second region of the data carrier portion is formed by a trademark.

18. (new) A system according to claim 15, wherein

- the first region of the data carrier portion has a multiplicity of lines of a binary pixel code, the binary pixel code containing the machine-readable information, and
- wherein the second region of the data carrier portion has a plurality of lines of a pixel code which together form the authenticating information that can be detected by the human eye and is distinctive to the human viewer.

19. (new) A system according to claim 15, including a machine-readable limit marking comprising at least one blank line provided between the first region of the data carrier portion and the second region of the data carrier portion.

20. (new) A system according to claim 16, wherein the reference marking has a frame extending around at least one of the first and second regions of the data carrier portion.

21. (new) A system according to claim 18, wherein the binary pixel code of at least one of the lines has a row of adjacently lying bit markings of a binary representation of an item of information.

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22. (new) A system according to claim 21, including binary bit markings for a check digit for the binary representation of the information in each line.

23. (new) A method for detecting and decoding optically readable information provided on a system for identifying and authenticating operating substances for an item of equipment having a first region for storing information which is machine-readable and a second region for storing information which is detectable by a human eye and distinctive to a human viewer, comprising

- registering the optically readable information,
- identifying the first and second regions,
- reading and decoding binary information present at the first region,
- reading the information present at the second region,
- comparing the read information of the second region with a stored information sample, and
- generating an authenticating signal if the read information of the second region coincides with the stored information sample.

24. (new) A method for detecting and decoding information provided on an optically readable data carrier portion of a system, at least part of the information being detectable by the human eye and distinctive to a human viewer, comprising

- registering the optical information present on the data carrier portion,
- identifying first and second regions of the data carrier portion,
- reading and decoding binary information present at the first region,
- reading information contained in the second region,
- comparing the read information of the second region with a stored information sample, and
- generating an authenticating signal if the read information of the second region coincides with the stored information sample.

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